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12 August 2003

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 00300410.8

Applicant: Hitachi, Ltd
Your ref: 349900029EP1
Our ref: NJH/FP5832803



We have now received the search report on this application and a copy is enclosed, together with a copy of each of the two cited documents.

This search report is not an examination of the patentability of the invention but instead aims to find the technical documents which are most relevant to this application.

The searcher has classified both citations in category "X" indicating that they are believed to be particularly relevant.

You should bear in mind that none of the categorisations are binding on the Examiner and you should assess the relevance of these documents. I have only looked at them briefly but can study them in more detail if you wish.

There is no need to make any response to this search report, but voluntary amendments can be filed at this stage if you require.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Hackney
MEWBURN ELLIS

Enc: copy search report and citations

JSS



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Europäisches Patentamt

Zweigstelle
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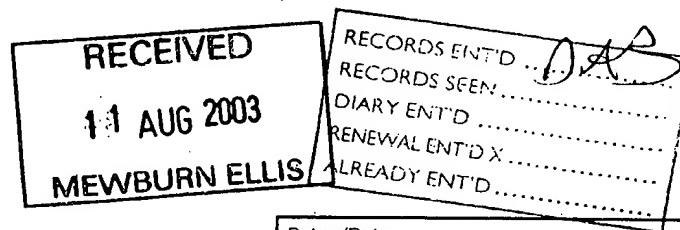
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|------------|
| Datum/Date |
| 11.08.03 |

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

NJH/FP 5832803

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

00300410.8-2201-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
Hitachi, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

- The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 0410

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| X | EP 0 782 080 A (AT & T CORP) 2 July 1997 (1997-07-02) * abstract * * page 4, line 28 - page 5, line 9 * * page 6, line 18 - page 8, line 34 * * figures 1,5 * --- | 1-20 | G06F17/30 |
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| MUNICH | 1 August 2003 | Konak, E |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document | | |

T : theory or principle underlying the invention

E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date

D : document cited in the application

L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 0410

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-08-2003

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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